



# Short-chain acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency (SCAD)

## Family Fact Sheet

### What is a positive newborn screen?

Newborn screening is done on tiny samples of blood taken from your baby's heel 24 to 36 hours after birth. The blood is tested for rare, hidden disorders that may affect your baby's health and development. The newborn screen suggests your baby might have a disorder called SCAD.

**A positive newborn screen does not mean your baby has SCAD, but it does mean your baby needs more testing to know for sure.**

You will be notified by your primary care provider or the newborn screening program to arrange for additional testing.

### What is SCAD?

SCAD affects an enzyme needed to break down fats in the food we eat. In SCAD, the enzyme used to break down fats is missing or not working properly.

A person with SCAD doesn't have enough enzyme to break down fat for energy. Using stored fat for energy is especially important between meals when the body is not getting new energy from eating food.

SCAD is a genetic disorder that is passed on (inherited) from parents to a child. The mother and father of an affected child carry a gene change that can cause SCAD. Parents usually do not have signs or symptoms, or even know they carry the gene change.

### What problems can SCAD cause?

SCAD is different for each child. Some children with SCAD have few health problems, while other children may have very serious complications.

If SCAD is not treated, a child might develop:

- Low blood sugar
- Sleepiness
- Vomiting
- Muscle weakness
- Poor growth and weight gain
- Seizures
- Coma

It is very important to follow the doctor's instructions for testing and treatment.

### What is the treatment for SCAD?

SCAD can be treated. Treatment is life-long and can include:

- Frequent meals/snacks and a low fat/high carbohydrate diet - a dietician will help with the best diet for your child.
- Medications to help the body make energy and get rid of harmful toxins.
- Special approaches to routine illnesses.

Children with SCAD should see their regular doctor, a doctor who specializes in SCAD, and a dietician.

Prompt and careful treatment helps children with SCAD live the healthiest lives possible.

### Michigan Resources and Support

**Michigan Newborn Screening**  
Nurse Consultant  
Toll-free: 1-866-673-9939  
[newbornscreening@michigan.gov](mailto:newbornscreening@michigan.gov)

**Children's Hospital of Michigan Metabolic Clinic**  
Toll-free: 1-866-442-4662

**Children's Special Health Care Services**  
Toll-free: 1-800-359-3722